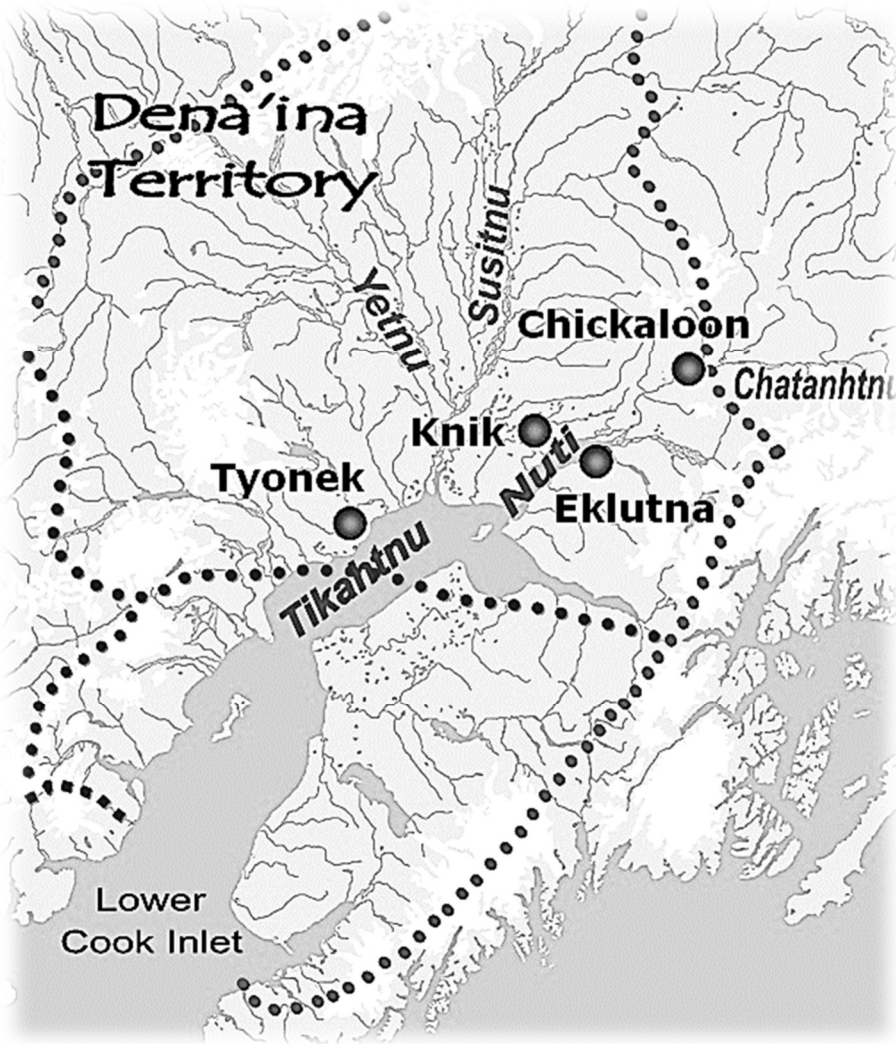


Thank you, Chin'an!



To reinvigorate traditions and culture among our Tribal Members while sharing our history and perspective with others.

Dgheyaytnu

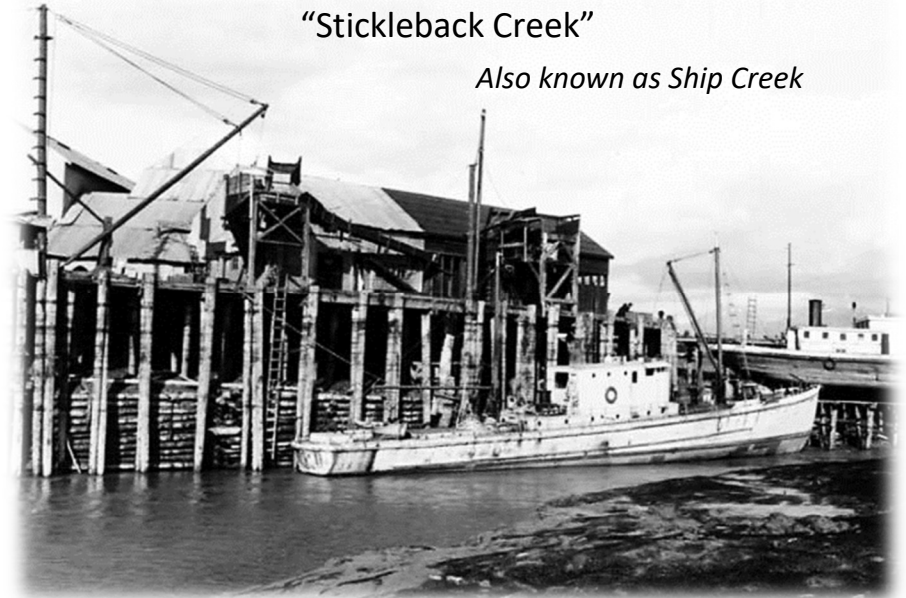


Photo from University of Alaska Anchorage, Archives & Manuscripts Dept.

Alaska Natives were able to convert to a cash economy by working for the Alaska Railroad and military as Anchorage began in 1915. This is also where Dená'ina sold lots of fish to the Emard Cannery. Later, commercial fishing was banned in Cook Inlet.

Henry J. Emard (1984-1963) – *The Emard Packing Company cannery in Anchorage operated from about May 25 to late August each year, packing King, Sockeye, and Coho salmon. The 1936 pack of nearly 60,000 cases of canned salmon set an all-time record up to that point of its operations, surpassing the previous record of 42,000 cases in 1934*



Leo Stephan – "I fished for the **Emard Packing Co.** until 1972." Leo recalls many **canneries** at the mouth of **Ship Creek**. "*The **Ocean Dock Far West cannery** was large and red. They used to dock their boats behind this cannery because it was protected and safe (by Isaac Walton). **Government Hill** had tents all over it, occupied by **cannery workers**. **Emard Packing Company** was located on the **Ship Creek**.*"

When coming back from **Fish camp** or **town**, he used the rocks along the coast for navigation. "***Cairn Rock** was a large black rock, also there was a large rock by the mouth of **Eagle River**.*"

Salmon were plentiful. Stickleback was the first catch in the spring, they would be boiled like soup. The creek water was deep and swift. This is where Anchorage started.

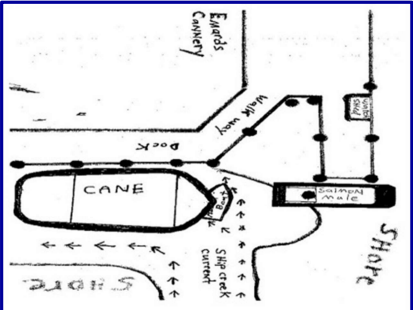
From Anchorage Daily News, June 20, 1955

BOY SWEEPED DOWNSTREAM BY FAST CURRENT, RESCUED BY BOAT FROM LOCAL CANNERY

Five persons, including three children, escaped drowning in the icy waters of Ship Creek near the Emard dock at 10 a.m. today when a small fishing boat overturned as they were boarding it.

An 11-year-old boy was hurled into the swift current and carried 500 feet before he was able to scramble up on a sandbar and thus escape drowning.

Maxie Alex, 11 year old son of Mike Alex, narrowly escaped death in the near tragedy.



Maxem Alex, Jr. (1944-2016) – (Son of Chief Mike Alex) He marveled about how often his life was saved by prayer and wanted this story shared. He worked in Amchitka and for the Alaska Railroad, drove a Taxi, helped dig the Eklutna Dam mountain tunnel, was a commercial fisherman and carpenter. He assisted people whenever he could and enjoyed telling his stories.



Ship Creek photo from Anchorage Museum of History and Art

Alberta Stephan – "All the Native people fished for **Emard**. The guy who ran this was very kind to Native people. He would give credit in the winter, and he would help supply them." Alberta says at the **Fish camps**, "They fished seven days a week. They sold the fish by the fish not by the pound."

Steve Braund and Associates Eklutna Interview: "Back in the days of stickleback soups, hundreds of them would come in like a wave and there were so many it did not take much to have a lot of soup."

Lois Munson – Lois's family did commercial fishing. At **fish camps**, she remembers her grandfather making \$325 for an entire season; that was 1935. Today \$30,000 is normal. Her father was popular with the packing company – **Emard**. They were the first to open down at the dock. Exxon ruined a lot of fishing and caused lost income, but it's starting to come back.

Leo Stephan – His Grandmother told him a story about walking on the trail that ran to/from **Anchorage** to **Eklutna**. When he was on **Base** with Dr. Yaw, they came across a **trail**, which was located up, on the **Bluff**. They also noted notches on the trees.

Anchorage and Ship Creek were important subsistence grounds for Native People from all over the Cook Inlet area and beyond.